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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, decided that the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should be headed by the Executive Director of the Programme, who should be elected by the Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of four years.

2. In its decision 52/316 of 3 December 1997, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly elected Klaus Töpfer (Germany) to be Executive Director of the Programme for a four-year term of office, beginning on 1 February 1998 and ending on 31 January 2002.

3. In its decision 56/312 of 21 November 2001, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly re-elected Mr. Töpfer as Executive Director of the Programme for a four-year term, beginning on 1 February 2002 and ending 31 January 2006.

4. In accordance with the above-mentioned provision of resolution 2997 (XXVII) and bearing in mind Mr. Töpfer's decision not to seek a further term as Executive Director of the Programme, the Secretary-General proposed a two-month extension of Mr. Töpfer's appointment until the end of March 2006, which would allow time to identify a suitable successor and ensure continuity in the work of UNEP and its Governing Council. On 23 November 2005, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal.

5. Following a thorough review and evaluation of candidates proposed to succeed Mr. Töpfer, the Secretary-General wishes to nominate Achim Steiner (Germany) for election as Executive Director of UNEP for a term of four years, beginning on 15 June 2006 and ending on 14 June 2010.

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